

March 11, 2010 - **WASHINGTON, DC** - On Thursday, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) voted for H. Res. 1107, a resolution that recognizes the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrates Greek and American democracy.

"I am proud and honored to extend my warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece and to Greek Americans from across my District as they celebrate the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece," said Congressman Sestak. "Greece represents a beacon of democracy that is admired for its history and contributions in furthering democratic principles around the world, and has been a strategic partner and strong ally of the United States."

March 25, 2010 marks the National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, the 189th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

Ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. The Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy.

"Greece is an exemplary ambassador -- fostering tolerance, reason, and understanding. This becomes critical as we continue to face 21st Century challenges and conflicts around the world. Over time, the people of Greece and the United States have forged a close bond in their commitment to preserving principles to preserve freedom, democracy, peace, stability and human rights around the world."

### Summary

This resolution extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 189th anniversary of their independence.

The measure expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed. It also notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence.

The resolution notes that throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict; that Greece is an active participant in peacekeeping; and that Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel.

Finally, the resolution states that it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which the two great nations were born.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in*

*Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

*###*